

II. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 26-33, 35, 37-40, 42-44, 48-50, 61-63, and 65-74 were pending in the case at the time of the Action, with claims 1-25, 34, 36, 41, 45-47, 51-60, and 64 having been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30-33, 35, 37-40, 42-44, 48-50, and 74 were designated as allowed in the Office Action dated January 30, 2007. Claims 66, 68-70, and 73 were designated as objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim in the Office Action dated January 30, 2007.

In the amendment set forth herein, claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 66 and 68. Claims 66 and 68 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 69 and 70 have been amended to depend from claim 26 rather than claim 68. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found generally throughout the specification, such as in the claims as originally filed.

In view of the amendment set forth herein, each of the pending claims (*i.e.*, claims 26-33, 35, 37-40, 42-44, 48-50, 61-63, 65, 67, and 69-74) is in condition for allowance. Applicants herein specifically reserve the right to prosecute any canceled claim or any subject matter canceled from any of the pending claims in a continuation or divisional application.

B. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 Are Moot

Claims 26-29, 61-63, 65, 67, and 71-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0127698 A1, hereinafter “Lynn,” as evidenced by Cullen (Nature, Vol. 7(1), 20-21, 2001). Applicants traverse.

Without conceding that claims 26-29, 61-63, 65, 67, and 71-72 are anticipated by Lynn, Applicants note that claim 26 should be in condition for allowance because claim 26 includes the limitations of claims 66 and 68, two claims which were only objected to for depending from a

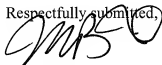
rejected claim. Claims 27-29, 61, 65, 67, and 71 are in condition for allowance because they depend from claim 26. Claims 62 and 63 are in condition for allowance because they depend from claim 61. Claims 69 and 70 are in condition for allowance because they have been amended to depend from claim 26. Claim 72 is in condition for allowance because it depends from claim 69.

Therefore, each of claims 26-29, 61-63, 65, 67, and 71-72 as currently written are in condition for allowance, and the rejection based on Lynn is moot.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (512) 536-3035 with any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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